

Remarks

Claims 1-9, 11-19, 21 and 22 are pending in the application and stand rejected. Claims 10 and 20 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of their subject matter.

Claim rejections

Section 101

Claims 1-9, 11-19, 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 USC 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Each of the pending claims now recites a machine-readable medium storing computer-executable instructions to perform a method, and accordingly, all now recite statutory subject matter. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-9, 11-19, 21 and 22 under 35 USC 101 is therefore respectfully requested.

Section 102

Claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by the ADI Reliability Handbook (hereafter, "ADI"). Of these claims, claims 1-9, 11-19, 21 and 22 remain pending. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-9, 11-19, 21 and 22. The rejected claims are allowable over ADI for at least the reason that ADI does not disclose the relationship $t_F = AF \times t_A^2$ as required by independent claims 1, 21 and 22.

The Examiner points to equation (1) on page 11 of ADI as corresponding to the claimed relationship. The Applicant respectfully disagrees. The alleged equivalent formula, t_1/t_2 , is simply a linear ratio. The claimed relationship, by contrast, is a non-linear function of time. The two are not equivalent.

Accordingly, claims 1, 21 and 22 are allowable over ADI. Claims 2-9 and 11-19 are likewise allowable over ADI for at least the reasons that they include the features of claim 1 by dependency thereon. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-9, 11-19, 21 and 22 as anticipated by ADI is therefore respectfully requested.

Conclusion

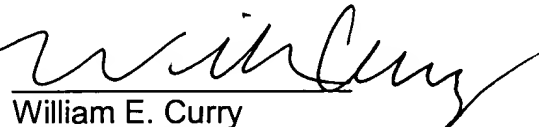
In light of the above discussion, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in all aspects in allowable condition, and earnestly solicits favorable reconsideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4323 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is authorized to charge any fees related to this communication to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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